

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 DAMASC 02520 011350Z

67

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /026 W

----- 073367

R 011334Z NOV 74

FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1846

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USMISSION USUN

C O N F I D E N T I A L DAMASCUS 2520

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, SY, IS

SUBJ: IDF GOLAN MANEUVERS

REF: TEL AVIV 6170

1. IN OCTOBER 29 MEETING WITH COS SHIHABI, DISCUSSED  
CURRENT ISRAELI MANEUVERS. WAS UNAWARE THAT ISRAELIS HAD  
PREANNOUNCED THEM; THAT POINT DID NOT COME UP  
IN OUR DISCUSSION (REFTEL RECEIVED OCTOBER 30).

2. FOUND SHIHABI IN IRRITABLE MOOD ABOUT THESE MANEUVERS.  
HIS POSITION IN BRIEF IS THAT SYRIAN MANEUVERS ARE CON-  
SISTENTLY CONDUCTED WELL BACK FROM THE DISENGAGEMENT ZONE  
WHILE ISRAELIS PUSH THEIR'S INTO THE ZONE NEAR THE A  
LINE. STATED HE HAD REPORTS ENTRY OF INCREASED  
NUMBER ISRAELIS TANKS TO THE ZONE OVER THE PAST FEW  
WEEKS.

3. CURRENT MANEUVERS ACCORDING TO HIS FIELD REPORT OF  
OCTOBER 29, INCLUDE TARGETING OF HEAVY ARTILLERY BURSTS ONTO  
AREA JUST BEYOND KUNEITRA. SHIHABI TERMED LATEST MANEUVERS  
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SHOWED CLEAR ISRAELI INTENTION TO INCREASE TENSION IN THE AREA.

HE FOUND THEIR TIMING IN CONJUNCTION WITH RABAT SUMMIT  
CONFERENCE NOT JUST SIMPLE COINCIDENCE.

4. SHIHABI ASKED RHETORICAL QUESTION, "WHEN DOES A WAR  
START? THE ISRAELIS ARE VIOLATING THE DISENGAGEMENT  
AGREEMENT; THEY ARE INCREASING TENSION BETWEEN US. IS  
NOT THEIR PUSHING TOWARDS A WAR EQUIVALENT TO CAUSING A  
WAR?" I REPLIED THAT WE WERE CLEARLY PASSING THROUGH A  
SENSITIVE TIME WHEN IN MY OPINION IT BEHOVED SYRIA TO  
EXERCISE STRICT SELF-CONTROL. ASSURED SHIHABI THAT WE  
TAKE SERIOUSLY ALL VIOLATIONS OF THE DISENGAGEMENT  
AGREEMENT WHEN INVESTIGATION CONFIRMS THEM.

4. COMMENT: I TAKE SHIHABI'S COMPLAINTS AS BEING FOR  
THE RECORD RATHER THAN AS A HINT THAT SYRIA FEELS ITSELF  
UNDER SUCH PROVOCATION THAT IT WILL HAVE TO RESPOND WITH  
ITS OWN EXERCISES IN OR NEAR THE ZONE. I WILL TAKE  
OCCASION NEXT MEETING TO NOTE PRIOR IDF ANNOUNCEMENT OF THESE  
EXERCISES AND TRY TO DETERMINE HOW INFORMATION REACHED  
DAMASCUS. AM MUCH ENCOURAGED THAT IDF GAVE  
PRIOR NOTICE IN THIS CASE AND HOPE THIS COULD BECOME SOP.  
MURPHY

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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